

VZCZCXRO0756
RR RUEHAG RUEHDF RUEHIK RUEHLZ RUEHROV
DE RUEHTC #1902/01 2891456
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
R 161456Z OCT 07
FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 0541
INFO RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS 0556

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 THE HAGUE 001902

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

STATE FOR EUR/WE, EUR/ERA

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [IS](#) [KPAL](#) [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [ETRD](#) [ETTC](#) [NL](#) [EU](#)

SUBJECT: NETHERLANDS/EU: DUTCH PREVIEW OCTOBER 15-16 GAERC
POSITIONS

REF: SECSTATE 141316

THIS MESSAGE IS SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED. PLEASE HANDLE
ACCORDINGLY.

11. (SBU) On October 10, Embassy shared reftel points with the Dutch MFA's EU Correspondent, Desiree Kopmells; Deputy Director for European Integration, Marisa Gerards; and Pauline Diepenbroek, Senior Policy Officer, European Cooperation Directorate.

12. (SBU) WTO off the agenda: Diepenbroek told Econoff that a discussion of WTO/DDA had been taken off the agenda for the upcoming GAERC meeting as well as the October 22 Agricultural Council. She speculated that the EC had decided to wait to brief EU Member States until they had a better sense of next steps. Meanwhile, she said the GONL welcomed the USG decision to consider "concrete texts" on Agriculture and Non-Agricultural Market Access. The GONL remained committed but had "measured optimism" of a successful Doha outcome in all negotiating areas, she added.

13. (SBU) In response to STATE 143223, the matter of Iran will be covered septel.

14. (SBU) Deputy EU Correspondent Rochus Pronk reviewed the remaining agenda items with Poloff and presented the Dutch positions:

IGC

15. (SBU) The Dutch are satisfied with the October 5 draft of the EU treaty because it follows the IGC mandate from June and because it will be presented as a treaty. Key elements for the Dutch include the Charter on Fundamental Rights and the Protocol on Services. The Dutch expect the week of October 15 to be decisive, but Poland has a long list of unresolved issues. Nonetheless, the Dutch expect the treaty to be signed in December and ratified by the Dutch parliament in 2008.

Burma

16. (SBU) The Dutch support additional sanctions beyond the 2004 and 2006 measures; they want a strong signal to Burma. Along with the UK, Sweden, and Denmark, the Dutch support broadening sanctions to the oil and gas sectors, but other EU members are opposed. The current sanctions package covers precious metals and stones.

Kosovo

¶7. (SBU) The Dutch support the troika efforts but in order to deploy any troops through ESDP, they need an international mandate.

Russia

¶8. (SBU) The Dutch support a &constructive, critical, and unified8 EU approach for the summit. They will continue to raise economic relations, internal developments such as human rights. PM Balkenende will visit Russia in November.

Libya

¶9. (SBU) They have tasked or expect to task the Commission with creating a plan for engaging Libya, to incorporate it into the Barcelona process and the European neighbor policy.

Peace Process

¶10. (SBU) The Dutch position toward Hamas is unchanged. They've provided 3 million Euros in response to the UNRA appeal.

Iraq

¶11. (SBU) The Dutch support an increase UN presence. The Dutch parliament is concerned about the treatment of Christians, so they have pushed for language on the treatment of religious minorities.

THE HAGUE 00001902 002 OF 002

Chad

¶12. (SBU) Netherlands supports a possible &joint action8 and maybe a military contribution, but that decision is tied to Afghanistan deployment.

Zimbabwe

¶13. (SBU) The Dutch are cautiously optimistic about Mbeki,s mediation. But the Dutch will attend the EU-AU summit. Undecided who will attend though.

Afghanistan

¶14. (SBU) The Dutch demarched GOA on the executions. Getting the ESDP mission up and running has been a challenge. Arnall